

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Vondie Curtis Hall

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Curtis-Hall, Vondie
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Vondie Curtis Hall,
Dates:	February 8, 2022
Bulk Dates:	2022
Physical Description:	13 uncompressed MOV digital video files (6:55:13).
Abstract:	Actor, screenwriter, and film and television director Vondie Curtis Hall (1950 -) has starred in numerous Broadway productions from <i>It's So Nice To Be Civilized</i> to <i>Dreamgirls</i> , films from <i>Crooklyn</i> to <i>Harriet</i> , and TV shows from <i>ER</i> to <i>Soul Food</i> . He made his writing and directorial debut with <i>Gridlock'd</i> , followed by <i>Glitter</i> , <i>Redemption</i> , <i>Waist Deep</i> , and others, and has directed episodes of <i>ER</i> , <i>Firefly</i> , <i>Boston Legal</i> , and more. Curtis Hall also has served as an arts professor at the New York University Tisch School of the Arts. Hall was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 8, 2022, in Harlem, New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2022_015
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Actor, screenwriter, and film and television director Vondie Curtis Hall was born on September 30, 1950, in Detroit, Michigan, to Angeline and Curtis Hall. He attended The Juilliard School, in New York City, and Richmond College, The American College in London, England.

Curtis Hall has starred in numerous Broadway productions, including *The Wiz*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *The Dutchman*, *The Fabulous Miss Marie*, *It's So Nice To Be Civilized*, *Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music*, *Dreamgirls*, and *Stardust*. His film credits as actor include *Shakedown*, *Coming to America*, *Mystery Train*, *Die Hard 2*, *One Good Cop*, *Passion Fish*, *Sugar Hill*, *Crooklyn*, *Clear and Present Danger*, *Drop Squad*, *William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet*, *Eve's Bayou*, *Don King: Only in America*, *Turn It Up*, *Freedom Song*, *Ali: An American Hero*, *Talk to Me*, *Honeydripper*, *Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans*, *Black Nativity*, *Harriet*, and *The Night House*. His TV credits as actor include *China Beach*, *The Trials of Rosie O'Neill*, *Nightmare Cafe*, *Civil Wars*, *I'll Fly Away*, *Fallen Angels*, *L.A. Law*, *South Central*, *ER*, *The Sopranos*, *Fastlane*, *1-800-Missing*, *Soul Food*, *LAX*, *Law & Order*, *Medium*, *Fear Itself*, *Criminal Minds*, *Lens on Talent*, *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, *A Gifted Man*, *NYC 22*, *Chasing Life*, *Rosewood*, *Spark*, and *Evil*. Curtis Hall received a 1994 Emmy nomination for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Drama Series for his role as a patient on *ER*.

Curtis Hall was a member of the main cast of the series *Cop Rock*, *Chicago Hope*, *Marvel's Daredevil*, and *For the People*. Curtis Hall's 1997 writing and directorial debut, *Gridlock'd*, received the National Board of Review Award for Excellence in Filmmaking. In 2001, he directed the film *Glitter*, scored by Terence Blanchard. Curtis Hall's 2004 telefilm *Redemption: The Stan Tookie Williams Story* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. Curtis

Hall wrote and directed the film *Waist Deep* in 2006 and directed the telefilms *Abducted: The Carlina White Story* in 2012, *Toni Braxton: Unbreak My Heart* in 2016, and *Faith Under Fire: The Antoinette Tuff Story* in 2018. He also directed episodes of *ER*, *Firefly*, *MDs*, *The Shield*, *Sleeper Cell*, *Boston Legal*, *Gossip Girl*, and *The Starter Wife*, co-hosted *Daedal Doors*, and performed on PBS' *The Improvisational Theater*.

Curtis Hall has served as an arts professor at the New York University Tisch School of the Arts.

Curtis Hall and his wife, Kasi Lemmons, live in New York City. They have three children: Che, Hunter, and Zora.

Vondie Curtis Hall was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on February 8, 2022.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Vondie Curtis Hall was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on February 8, 2022, in Harlem, New York, New York, and was recorded on 13 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Actor, screenwriter, and film and television director Vondie Curtis Hall (1950 -) has starred in numerous Broadway productions from *It's So Nice To Be Civilized* to *Dreamgirls*, films from *Crooklyn* to *Harriet*, and TV shows from *ER* to *Soul Food*. He made his writing and directorial debut with *Gridlock'd*, followed by *Glitter*, *Redemption*, *Waist Deep*, and others, and has directed episodes of *ER*, *Firefly*, *Boston Legal*, and more. Curtis Hall also has served as an arts professor at the New York University Tisch School of the Arts.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Curtis-Hall, Vondie

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Curtis-Hall, Vondie--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Filmmaker

HistoryMakers® Category:

ArtMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Vondie Curtis Hall, February 8, 2022. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Vondie Curtis Hall, Section A2022_015_001_001, TRT: 1:30:11 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vondie Curtis Hall, Section A2022_015_001_002, TRT: 2:33:13 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vondie Curtis Hall, Section A2022_015_001_003, TRT: 3:28:21 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vondie Curtis Hall, Section A2022_015_001_004, TRT: 4:34:51 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vondie Curtis Hall, Section A2022_015_001_005, TRT: 5:32:39 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vondie Curtis Hall, Section A2022_015_001_006, TRT: 6:31:09 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vondie Curtis Hall, Section A2022_015_001_007, TRT: 7:35:16 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vondie Curtis Hall, Section A2022_015_001_008, TRT: 8:30:22 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vondie Curtis Hall, Section A2022_015_001_009, TRT: 9:31:30 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vondie Curtis Hall, Section A2022_015_001_010, TRT: 10:30:09 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vondie Curtis Hall, Section A2022_015_001_011, TRT: 11:31:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vondie Curtis Hall, Section A2022_015_001_012, TRT: 12:32:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vondie Curtis Hall, Section A2022_015_001_013, TRT: 13:33:49 ?